No. 584.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 31st January 1873.

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, N.D., No. 123, dated 11th January 1873.—Forwarding copy of a letter from Mr. Hope, Collector of Surat, from which it will be seen that the information on which Government Resolution No. 5365, dated 28th October 1872, directing the City Survey of Surat to be brought to a close so far as it was conducted by Government officers was passed, was derived from imperfect and erroneous data; and that up to 28th September 1872 the Survey had not only paid its expenses, but had yielded a revenue of Rs. 27,422 to Government and Rs. 41,822 to the municipality, or a profit of Rs. 54 and 43 per cent., respectively, on the outlay; and requesting, under the circumstances stated, a re-consideration of the subject, Mr. Hope's request to revert to the position of affairs previous to the late Resolution being acceded to, which will involve the trifling expenditure of Rs. 225 per mensem, or about Rs. 4,725 in all, during two years and the services of three Enquiry Officers, two of whom will be Fifth Grade Deputy Collectors on Rs. 300.

RESOLUTION.—Both the City Survey Officer who framed the report submitted with Mr. Shaw Stewart's letter No. 1134, of the 2nd June 1872, and the Superintendent of Survey through whom it was sent, are to blame for not more carefully scrutinising the figures which led Government to pass their Resolution No. 3367, of the 12th July last. Those now submitted show a profit of 54 per cent. to Government on the outlay and of 43 per cent. to the municipality in place of a loss of Rs. 9,200 to Government and of Rs. 6,760 to the municipality arrived at from the former. Allowance must be made in this for the calculation by which rents, &c., have been capitalised at 25 instead of 20 years' purchase as taken in the former Resolution. But even at the latter rate there would still be a profit of Rs. 11,682 in place of one of Rs. 13,100 at the former.

2. Government concur with the Collector that the extra sources of profit mentioned in the 10th, 12th, and 13th paras. of his letter, as well as the reversionary rights over leased lands accruing at the termination of the leases for 99 years noted in para. 15, may fairly be taken into the calculation. When the calculation is thus amended it becomes evident that the offer made to the municipality in para. 6 of Resolution No. 3367 of 1872 was far more liberal than they had any right to expect, or than would have been made if the state of the case had been correctly placed before Government. That offer must therefore now be withdrawn, and, as recommended by the local officers, the *status quo* reverted to.

3. Government concur with the Collector that it will be advantageous to employ three, in place of two, Enquiry Officers. The opportunity of the appointment of Mr. Trevor as an Assistant to the Collector may be made use of to place him on this enquiry, as his present state of health is too delicate to admit of his having charge of talukas. The Revenue Commissioner may be asked, in connection with his letter No. 264, dated 18th January, whether the services of Messrs. Manekjee Cowasjee or Shunker Pandoorung can be spared for this work from Khandesh, their places being supplied by Supernumerary Collectors.

4. Mr. Hope has not stated what higher fees for sunnuds he would propose to be charged for the two classes of cases mentioned in the 12th para. of his letter. This he should now be requested to do through the Revenue Commissioner, N.D.

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Revenue Commissioner, N.D.
The Revenue Commissioner, S.D.
The Accountant General.
The Collector of Surat.

Revenue Department.

Bombay Castle, 21st April 1873.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the undermentioned fees be levied under Section X. of Bombay Act IV., 1868, for sunnuds issued in the City of Surat, in supersession of the rate fixed in para. 4 of the Government Notification of 10th February 1869 :—

I.—Sunnud for a single number or comprising not more than two subordinate properties or "pot" numbers. Rs. 2
Ditto comprising three or four do. ..... „ 3
Ditto five or six do. ..... „ 4
Ditto seven and upwards do. ..... „ 5

II.—Provided always that the fee for a sunnud granted for lands vacant prior to 1836, and now vacant or held for less than 5 years previous to the introduction of Bombay Act I., 1865, or IV., 1868, shall be as under :—

If comprising a single number or not more than two "pot" numbers ..... Rs. 4
Ditto more than two ditto ..... „ 5